App. No. 10/007, 364
Office Action Dated July 19, 2005

**IN THE CLAIMS**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A device for closing a left atrial appendage of a heart, said device comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end a distal end, wherein the distal end is percutaneously adapted to enter a pericardial space, advance over an epicardial surface, and approach the exterior of the left atrial appendage;

at least one closing element carried by the shaft adapted to close the left atrial appendage when the distal end of the shaft is positioned adjacent the left atrial appendage; and

the device further comprises an expander for separating the pericardium in the region of the left atrial appendage.

11. (original) A device in claim 10, wherein the shaft has a length in the range from 10 cm to 40 cm, a width in the range from 2 mm to 20 mm, and a thickness in the range from 1 mm to 10 mm.

12. (original) A device as in claim 10, wherein the shaft is curved over its length.

13. (previously presented) A device as in claim 12, wherein the curvature of the shaft is adjustable.

14. (original) A device as in claim 12, wherein the device has a crescent-shaped cross-section.

App. No. 10/007, 364
Office Action Dated July 19, 2005

15. (original) A device as in claim 10, wherein the distal end is configured to lie within an atrioventricular valve groove of the heart.

16. (previously presented) A device for closing a left atrial appendage of a heart, said device comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the distal end is percutaneously adapted to enter a pericardial space, advance over an epicardial surface, and approach the exterior of the left atrial appendage;

at least one closing element carried by the shaft adapted to close the left atrial appendage when the distal end of the shaft is positioned adjacent the left atrial appendage;

wherein the distal end is configured to lie within an atrioventricular valve groove of the heart; and

wherein the shaft has at least one lumen which extends from the proximal end to an exit port spaced inwardly from the distal end by a distance in the range from 0.5 cm to 5 cm.

17. (previously presented) A device as in claim 16, wherein the closing element extends through the at least one lumen.

18. (previously presented) A device as in claim 17, wherein the closing element comprises a grasping tool which extends through one of the lumens, said grasping tool being adapted to temporarily grasp the left atrial appendage.

19. (previously presented) A device as in claim 18, wherein the grasping tool comprises a first closing element, and the device further comprises a second closing element which is adapted to permanently close the left atrial appendage while the left atrial appendage is being temporarily closed with the grasping tool.

App. No. 10/007, 364
Office Action Dated July 19, 2005

20. (currently amended) A device for closing a left atrial appendage of a heart, said device comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the distal end is percutaneously adapted to enter a pericardial space, advance over an epicardial surface, and approach the exterior of the left atrial appendage;

at least one closing element carried by the shaft configured to engage the left atrial appendage in a manner to close the left atrial appendage;

wherein the shaft is curved over its length from the distal end to the proximal end; ~~and,~~

wherein the shaft has at least one lumen.; and,

wherein the shaft has a longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end to the distal end, a width dimension measured perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and a thickness dimension measured perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and perpendicular to the width dimension, and wherein over at least the majority of the length of the shaft the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension.

21. (previously presented) A device as in claim 20, further comprising a viewing scope positionable through the lumen in the shaft.

22. (original) A device as in claim 10, further comprising a handle attached to the proximal end of the shaft.

23. (previously presented) A device as in claim 21, wherein the shaft has at least a second lumen for irrigating the pericardial space.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) A device as in claim 10, wherein the expander comprises an inflatable balloon.

Claims 26-28 (cancelled)

29. (previously presented) A device as in claim 10, wherein the closing element includes means for closing the left atrial appendage.

30. (previously presented) A device as in claim 10, wherein the closing element includes a loop to permanently close the left atrial appendage.

31. (previously presented) A device as in claim 10, wherein the closing element includes a clip to permanently close the left atrial appendage.

32. (previously presented) A device as in claim 16, wherein the closing element includes a loop to permanently close the left atrial appendage.

33. (previously presented) A device as in claim 16, wherein the closing element includes a clip to permanently close the left atrial appendage.

34. (previously presented) A device as in claim 20, wherein the closing element is configured to simultaneously engage opposite side surfaces of the left atrial appendage.

35. (currently amended) A device as in claim 20, wherein the shaft has at least two lumens, each lumen extends from the proximal end to an exit port spaced from the distal end, wherein the shaft includes a generally thinned region adjacent the distal end, the thinned region defining a surface that forms a portion of an exterior surface of the shaft, and the exit ports for the lumens are defined in the surface.

36. (new) A device as in claim 16, wherein the shaft has a longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end to the distal end, a width dimension measured perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and a thickness dimension measured perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and perpendicular to the width dimension, and wherein over at least the majority of the length of the shaft the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension.